# **Juvenile Center Wrap-Around**

# Promising Practices Making It Happen

## **Vigo County School Corporation is Making it Happen!**



WE ARE The Vigo County Juvenile Center is located in the heart of Terre Haute and houses children ages 12-18 in need of incarceration. The Vigo County School Corporation is located in Central Indiana bordering Illinois. Being a countywide system provides a variety of constituents in our 28 schools. Our poverty rate runs from a high of 94.3% to a low of 26.4% for an average of 56.2%. We have a mixture of rural, suburban and urban schools within the system and a special education rate of 19.4%

### **OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES:**

360 students were incarcerated at the Juvenile Center during the month of October alone, some students for one or two days, and many for more long term sentences.

our teachers HQ teachers provide instruction in ELA & Math and other subject (tutoring based upon individual student need/Assessment results). We have an additional mental health counselor for emotional support and drop-out prevention two days week.

#### **OUR PROMISING PRACTICE**

We have started serving the Vigo County Juvenile Center this year. There is an initiative to focus funds not only on the academic needs of students within the Juvenile Justice system, but to serve the mental health of the students as well. We have budgeted funds in partnership with the Hamilton Center to provide mental Health services; a real focus to use research based clinical strategies to improve students' mental health to have better success academically and socially with students.

OUR STEPS We are working with the Juvenile Judge to assist with student behaviors and instruction in Community Services as an alternative to incarceration, helping with truancy issues, and providing intentional transitioning of students back into schools after incarceration.

Key performance based strategies include mentoring, counseling, drop-out prevention programs, alternative to incarceration, community service, moral and emotional support for at-risk students, and transition programming with a higher focus on the mental health aspect inherent as the basis for the success.

After-school and summer programming also provide additional learning opportunities for inmates to combat regression of knowledge. Title I tech money - provide software for remediation and subjects beyond ELA & Math (Gradpoint and 12 laptops with appropriate software). Title I will purchase, supplemental to the current reading series, Book sets (high interest- low difficulty) and supplements (informational texts and manipulatives) to the ELA curriculum.

**OUR SOURCES** We have partnered with the Juvenile Justice System, the Vigo County Juvenile Judge, Hamilton Center Mental Health Services, the Vigo County School Corporation's ten Middle and High schools, and the Adult Education Services Department. All are working together to wrap services and support around the children in our community at greatest risk of failure.